



# Proms at St Jude's

By Ken Carter

The 17<sup>th</sup> season of Proms at St Jude's in Hampstead Garden Suburb featured 16 concerts in nine days, by professionals, semi-professionals and newcomers.

The Carducci Quartet was cool-headed and spirited. Their Haydn 'Joke' quartet was delicious and sprightly. David Matthews' 11<sup>th</sup> quartet (a Proms commission) was easy on the ear, emotionally urgent, then still.

At the evening's peak, Nicola Eimer joined the Carducci for Robert Schumann's Piano Quintet, whose rousing uplift and beauty were matchless.

One lunch-time, I heard newcomers in a mature, deeply moving Tchaikovsky Piano Trio in A minor. The Willow Trio played as one: Jacob Barnes, aged 19, piano, from Canterbury, Freya Creech, violin, and Ariana Kashefi, cello, both sixth-formers at the Purcell School and South Hampstead High School.

Nicholas Chalmers deftly led the semi-professional Proms Festival Orchestra and Chorus in vigorous, bracing voice. This was a live, lean young man's take in a clean, austere acoustic. Four excellent young soloists, added lustre. Jane Harrington's coloratura (soprano) was brilliant though strained; Paul Carey Jones (baritone) barked a 'Samson' aria with panache. Hannah Pedley's serene repose (mezzo) was outstanding.

# Gloves off for boxing bout

A bunch of friends are dusting off their boxing gloves to raise money for a young boy suffering from cerebral palsy.

The ex-boxers and a couple of new recruits, all from Finchley and Barnet, have organised an evening of white collar bouts at the Emirates Stadium later this month, with a professional MC, referee and an auction of boxing memorabilia.

Money raised from the special evening on 28 August will support five-year-old David Loft-house and the Rainbow Centre in Hampshire, where he receives treatment. David is a nephew of one of the organisers.

Anyone fancying some ringside action will be treated to a three-course meal and wine, plus six bouts, for a ticket price of £75. There are also standing tickets available.

Builder Alan Beardon, 44, said: "We're all ripping ourselves to pieces getting back into training for this. We're at the physio every week, but it's a good cause and we hope people will come along to enjoy the action."

For more information and to buy tickets contact Alan on 07956434216 or Neil McCurie on 07966 750596.

## Eastwards to St James's

Away from the Proms at St James's, Muswell Hill, rounder architecture and acoustics produced more mellow sounds. The North London Orchestra mixed old playing style and new, and the North London Chorus sang with human sound in rich exactness. Rarely has Handel sounded so whole-heartedly splendid and exuberant. Unfortunately, the youthful soloists from the Royal College of Music sounded distant. I heard Sarah-Jane Brandon occasionally, agreeably.

# Whose round is it?

By Sippy Azizollah

Cheers! Piers Barnett, of the Royal Signals, based in Dorset, was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by Jason Kitteringham, general manager of the Five Bells pub in East End Road.

Piers won the cash for taking part in a brewery-run survey competition called Tell Us and Win. It is open to 41 test pubs across the country to give pub guests the chance to comment on the standard of food, drinks and service they receive on their visit.

Piers said: "I was really surprised that I'd won, as I just did it for fun." Manager Jason said: "I've been at the Five Bells for the last five months, and I'm chuffed that one of my regulars won the prize." There is still time for you to have your say, as the competition is running till September.

# We know how to party

By Diana Cormack

When it comes to street parties, residents of Summerlee Gardens are streets ahead. They have been holding get-

togethers for many years and children have grown up with summer parties and Guy Fawkes parties as part of their lives. As well as giving people the chance to socialise, street parties are also a way of welcoming new neighbours or saying farewell to those who are moving on.

Long-term resident Joyce Arram probably wouldn't admit it, but she could be described as having been an original "power behind the throne" to all this.

Being Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, her newsletters keep residents well informed and include party details.

A group of neighbours ensures that relevant information is distributed, chairs and tables are in place and food and drink supplies are prepared. One thing they can't organise is the weather, but this year it was perfect for a Summerlee Gardens party.

Let THE ARCHER know about your street party. Our contact details are on page 2.

# A bit of 'Me Time'

By Helen Drake

Beauty therapist Mandana likes to welcome each season with a new facial, and summer 2009 is no exception. At her open evening in Church Lane on 4 June, customers were invited to sample the products in her new Pomegranate and Passion Fruit facial.

Tempted, this writer put herself into Mandana's capable hands for a one-hour facial and a bit of 'Me Time'.

After a steam clean and an exfoliator, all the lumps and bumps in my skin had been removed. Next, a vitamin serum was gently massaged into my face before I was encased in a hydrating mask (a bit strange but you get used to it).

While the mask was working its magic I was given an expert head and arm massage, which was decadent beyond belief and worth the price of the facial alone. Once the mask was removed a delicious-smelling moisturiser was applied.

I left Mandana's treatment room feeling deeply relaxed and calm, ready to face the rest of the busy day ahead.

Currently, if you book in for a course of four facials you will receive a further facial for free. To contact Mandana, telephone 020 8365 2284.



Residents Marcella Strickland, Joyce Arram and Ginny Wilson enjoying the summer street party. Photo by Guy Redmond.

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# KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## The day the music didn't die

They say that if you want rock'n'roll immortality you need to live fast, die young and leave a good-looking corpse. Dropping dead of a heart attack as your golf cart plunges into a water feature on the 16<sup>th</sup> fairway the week before your 75<sup>th</sup> birthday doesn't count.

This is a game for the weird and twisted and I'm just the man for it. Jimi Hendrix counts; so do Kurt Cobain, Buddy Holly, Ian Curtis, Janis Joplin and Otis Redding. All dead before 30, and dying with so much more to say.

And then there's Michael Jackson. They say you can't libel the dead, but I'm too twisted to take the easy way out. Yes, it's weird to call both your sons Prince Michael and your daughter after Paris Hilton. Yes, there is something seriously odd about having so much plastic surgery that anyone who last saw you when you were 18 wouldn't recognise you now. But that's not the point.

The point is that living fast and dying young only works if your best days are still in front of you. Michael's best days were 25 years ago. The Jackson Five were part of the Motown hit machine and were sensational. Michael matured into something special. *Off the Wall* and *Thriller* were slick and calculated and the *Thriller* video moved MTV on to a different level. And then it all went bad.

By the time Michael Jackson turned up at the Brits in 1996 to do his overblown messianic bit surrounded by children he was so far past his sell by date that he stank. Since then there's been scandal, dangling babies and major league prescription drug use. The 50 shows at the O2 sounded more like a freak show than rock'n'roll.

Live fast, die young and leave a good-looking corpse? Michael Jackson failed on all counts. As Nick Cohn said, it's better to maintain a sense of decorum by dying in a plane crash a couple of days before your 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. That way all they remember is the good, because after that it can get both bad and ugly.

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